

Message Text

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ORIGIN INT-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TBIO, GH, US

SUBJECT: VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES IMPORT LAW

1. THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL LAWS REGULATING THE TAKING, TRANSPORTATION, POSSESSION, SALE, IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF WILDLIFE AND/OR THEIR PRODUCTS. ONE OF THESE LAWS, THE LACEY ACT, (18 USC 43), PROHIBITS AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM (AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES), THE TRANSPORTATION IN FOREIGN COMMERCE OF WILDLIFE WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN, TRANSPORTED OR SOLD IN VIOLATION OF THE LAWS OF ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY. REGULATION (50 CFR 14.41) REQUIRE THAT IF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR THE COUNTRY OF EXPORT HAVE LAWS RESTRICTING THE TAKING, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, EXPORTATION OR SALE OF WILDLIFE, THE IMPORTER MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE FOREIGN DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT SUCH LAWS AND REGULATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN VIOLATED. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LAW AND SUBSEQUENT REGULATIONS IS TO ASSIST OTHER

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GOVERNMENTS IN CONTROLLING THE ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN THEIR WILDLIFE AND TO CLOSE THE U. S. MARKET TO ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN WILDLIFE.

2. THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE

VIOLATIONS OF THE LACEY ACT (18 USC 43) BY A U. S. COMPANY,
SPECIFICALLY, WESTERN ZOOLOGICAL SUPPLY.

3. ON NOVEMBER 21, 1977, WESTERN ZOOLOGICAL SUPPLY
IMPORTED SEVERAL REPTILIAN SPECIES INCLUDING 24 GABOON
VIPERS (BITIS GABONICA) INTO THE UNITED STATES. INSPECTION
OF GHANA EXPORT PERMIT NUMBER 002657 INDICATED PERMITTED
NUMBER OF ABOVE SPECIES APPEARS TO BE ALTERED TO READ
"25" INSTEAD OF "15" ON THE NUMBER OF GABOON VIPERS THAT
COULD BE LAWFULLY EXPORTED.

4. USFWS REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE
OFFICIAL AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND WILDLIFE,
P.O. BOX 239, ACCRA AND PROCURE A COPY OF GHANA EXPORT
PERMIT NUMBER 002657 FOR RETURN POUCH TO INQUIRING AGENCY
FOR REVIEW.

5. PLEASE CAPTION RESPONSE, "FOR DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT,
T.L. GROSZ (4-3509). VANCE

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